



Plot Rental Rules & Responsibilities

Butler Township 'Human Nature' Community Garden

Welcome to the 2012 gardening season! The Butler Township 'Human Nature' Community Garden is operated and managed as a partnership between Butler Township and the Center for Landscape Design & Stewardship (CLDS), a local 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Community gardening policies and procedures are important for all community gardeners to understand and abide by in order to ensure fairness and avoid conflict. If you have any questions about this information, please contact **Jim Walck at 956-4181 or walckj@ptd.net**.

Term

This lease agreement shall begin on April 1, 2012 and continue through October 31, 2012.

Reserving your plot

Each gardener is entitled to two plots, based upon available space. If more than two plots are desired, gardeners may be placed on a waiting list. Garden plots must be cleared of weeds by June 4, 2012. If a gardener has not used his/her plot by June 18, 2012, the plot will become available for rental to other gardeners or dedicated for other uses. The rental fee will not be reimbursed.

New Gardener Orientation

New gardeners are required to attend a mandatory gardener orientation workshop prior to planting. We will inform you of this orientation date via phone or email.

Garden Gates

All garden gates except the main pedestrian entry gate on the southwest side will remain locked at all times. If for some reason you would like to transport heavy supplies or equipment through a vehicular gate, contact Jim Walck to make arrangements. It is the responsibility of each gardener to ensure that the main pedestrian gate remains closed to ensure that deer or other large animals cannot get in.

Garden Shed

The garden shed will be equipped with a combination lock, and each gardener will receive this combination. **It is imperative that all gardeners ensure the shed is securely locked when leaving the garden.** Tools and equipment within the shed are available to lessees on a first-come, first serve basis. Lessees must **clean and return** any borrowed items when they are finished using them. Lessees may also store their own small tools and personal items in the shed at his/her own risk.

No synthetic chemical herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers allowed

Our goal is to create an organic garden that will nurture healthy soil and a healthy plant environment. Because plant and soil health deteriorates with the use of synthetic chemicals, they are not allowed in the community garden. We also want to keep the garden safe for children who will be gardening alongside you. Gardeners using non-organic weed killers, fertilizers and/or pesticides will lose their gardening privileges! This also applies to dyed mulch.

Plot Maintenance

Weeds must be kept below six inches in height. It is the gardeners' responsibility to control the weeds in his/her own plots **and adjacent pathways**. Should your weeds exceed six inches for a substantial period of time, you will be contacted with one warning. If the weeds are not removed within one week of the warning, the plot will be forfeited and the rental fee will not be reimbursed.

Garden Stewardship

The Community Garden is supported by donated funds that must be raised annually. The garden is staffed by volunteers. Lessees are responsible for planting, cultivating and maintaining their own garden plots. The care and maintenance of

the garden is the collective responsibility of the community gardeners and CLDS volunteers. Several organized work sessions will be held throughout the season. **Each gardener is required to attend at least one work session.** These will be advertised accordingly.

Mulch

Several mulch stockpiles will be available within the garden. This mulch is available for your use to cover the pathways surrounding your garden plot. Please feel free to also add mulch to any of the common pathways in need of maintenance.

End of Season

At the end of the season, **lessees agree to return their plot to the CLDS in a neat and orderly condition.** This includes clearing the plot of any remaining plant material, trellis materials, ornaments, trash, or other objects at the end of the season. Anyone who does not clear their plot at the end of the season may lose the right to re-rent their plot the following season.

Water Use

Water spigots are located within 75 feet of every garden plot. Butler Township maintains this system. Lessees should not alter this system in any way. Please report any problems or leaks to Jim Walck. In order to conserve water, lessees are asked to consider installing soaker hoses within their garden plot. A soaker hose is a porous hose that can be connected via a typical garden house to one of the yard hydrants and laid out along the base of your plants. The hose allows water to slowly seep out along its length. Each new gardener will learn how the water system works at the gardener orientation meetings. You can also help conserve water by making sure that spigots are completely shut off when not in use.

Compost Areas

Several compost bins are located throughout the garden. It is the lessee's responsibility to compost their own garden waste. Please do not add any trash, grease, or animal proteins. The bins will be cleared periodically. In the event that they are full, plant material may be placed adjacent to the bins. **Diseased or pest-infested plants should be discarded in the trash, not in the compost area.**

Food Waste

We realize that gardeners cannot always pick food at the time it is ready for harvest and that sometimes food goes to waste. In an effort to minimize waste, CLDS volunteers will contact plot renters if we see that much of your food appears to be going un-picked and ask if you would like to donate the food back to the CLDS for charity or for sale.

Behavior

Disrespectful or abusive language, destructive behavior, or theft of tools, equipment, or plant material in plots other than your own can result in the immediate loss of all gardening privileges, and forfeiture of any crops remaining in the garden. Smoking and the use of alcohol or drugs is also prohibited.

Statement of Understanding

By signing this document, you acknowledge that you have read the Butler Township 'Human Nature' Community Garden "Rules and Responsibilities" and agree to abide by them for the duration of the lease agreement. You understand that failure to do so may result in revocation of your gardening privileges and forfeiture of your rental fee.

Waiver of Liability

I understand that neither Butler Township nor the Center for Landscape Design & Stewardship, Inc. (CLDS) is responsible for my actions. I THEREFORE AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS BUTLER TOWNSHIP AND THE CLDS FOR ANY LIABILITY, DAMAGE, LOSS OR CLAIM THAT OCCURS IN CONNECTION WITH USE OF THE GARDEN BY ME OR ANY OF MY GUESTS.

Printed Name of Lessee

Signature of Lessee

Date